

I just completed a three-day DEA/State/FBI mission to Mexico, focused on drugs, cartels and the fight in Mexico. Unlike previous years, the new President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is one of the toughest crime fighters in the history of that country. He has arrested more cartel leaders, taken on more gangs and extradited more top drug kingpins to the US than all of his predecessors combined. I spent an hour with him at the Mexican White House, “Los Pinos.” We talked about the US-Mexico Merida Initiative, started by President Bush and continued by President Obama, to help take out Mexican drug cartels.

It makes a difference here where Illinois suffers as the state with the highest per capita gang membership– including 2,000 documented gang members operating north of Lake-Cook Road. Nearly all of their drugs come from south of the border where the cartels now represent a clear and present danger to people in both America and Mexico. This includes their new cartel horror – [routine beheadings](#) .

Check out President Calderon [here](#) , the new [federal police](#) doing most of the work against cartels and [reporting](#) on my meeting yesterday.